

technology, expanded the use of environmentally sensitive products such as recycled paper and vegetable-oil inks, and developed the technology and databases supporting GPO Access, GPO's award winning online information dissemination service. As a result of these changes, citizen access to Government information has been substantially improved, and the productivity increases from new technology have permitted substantial staff downsizing and increased savings to the taxpayers. Beyond these achievements, Mr. Rottmann was widely considered an able administrator and a friend by GPO's employees.

Mr. Rottmann earned numerous GPO awards, served as an apprentice training representative, completed several training programs, and is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, VA.

I extend congratulations and sincere appreciation to Mr. Rottmann for his 53 years of dedicated public service to Congress and the Nation, and I wish him a long and happy retirement. ●

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BUREAU COUNTY REPUBLICAN

● Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the Bureau County Republican on its 150th anniversary.

Since 1847, the people of Princeton and Bureau County have turned to the Republican for accurate news and information. What began as a small, weekly paper dedicated to the abolition of slavery is now known as the primary local morning newspaper in the region.

The Bureau County Republican is a great American success story, and Illinois is proud of its long and distinguished history.

In honor of the paper's sesquicentennial, I ask that an article from the January 2, 1997, edition of the Bureau County Republican be printed at this point in the RECORD.

The article follows:

THE TRADITION OF COMMUNITY PUBLISHING GROWS

The Bureau County Advocate was first published on December 2, 1847 by Ebenezer Higgins.

Justin Olds and J.M. Wilkinson purchased the Advocate in the summer of 1851 and changed its name to the Princeton Post. In 1858, the Princeton Post was changed to the Bureau County Republican. John W. Bailey I purchased the Bureau County Republican in 1863. In the early days, he was identified with the Abolition Party and also with the underground railroad.

According to the "Big Bureau and Bright Prairies" edited by Doris Parr Leonard and published by the Bureau County Board of Supervisors, Bailey, 33, had worked in Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee and Washington, D.C. and was directed to Princeton by Joseph Medill of the Chicago Tribune who had heard that a paper was for sale in the county seat of Bureau County. Ironically both the Bureau County Republican and the Chicago Tribune were founded the same year, 1847.

He continued as head of the Republican for 40 years until his death May 28, 1903. He was succeeded by his son, Harry U. Bailey, who also headed the paper for 40 years until his death Sept. 20, 1943.

Third in the line of Baileys to head the newspaper was John W. Bailey III, son of H. U. Bailey. He was publisher from 1943 until his death May 13, 1946, in a fire in his home. His widow, the former Mary Potter of Henry, whose life he had saved in the fire, subsequently became the publisher and continued that role for 31 years.

John W. Bailey III, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, had become a junior partner in 1935 and had directed his efforts toward a vigorous program to make the Republican a stronger force, enhancing the potential of Princeton as a mercantile, agricultural and small industrial center.

In June 1963, the newspaper which had been a weekly since its inception, became a semi-weekly. Thursday's paper remained the Republican while the newspaper published on Tuesday was called the Bureau County Record.

On May 12, 1977, the BCR/Record was sold to the B. F. Shaw Printing Co., publishers of the Dixon Evening Telegraph.

Illinois Valley Shopping News was purchased in 1982 replacing the Bureau County Advertiser.

In 1987, the Saturday edition was added and in 1992 the BCR converted to an AM newspaper, making it the only local morning newspaper.

The Bureau County Republican won the distinction of being the best weekly newspaper in the state in 1988 and 1991 as judged by the Illinois Press Association in winning the Will Loomis and Harold and Eva White trophies.

Publishers succeeding Mary Bailey have included William DeLost, William Shaw, Vern Brown, Robert Sorenson and Sam R. Fisher, current publisher.

Editors have included Theodore A. Duffield, Scott Caldwell, James Dunn, Ron DeBrock and James F. Troyer, and current editor, Lori Hamer.

A HIGH PROBABILITY OF FAILURE

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, we now have a consensus that the year 2000 is going to arrive before the Federal Government has prepared its computers for the date.

Yesterday, in a hearing held by my esteemed colleague Representative STEPHEN HORN, officials from the General Accounting Office [GAO] warned that many of the Government's computers will stop working in 2000 because agencies have failed to take the appropriate precautions. Joel Willemsen, GAO's Director of Information Resources Management, warned: "There is a high probability there will be some failures."

Though widely pronounced in small circles for a year now, this fact is now being heralded by the General Accounting Office—Congress' dutiful investigative arm. To its credit GAO has added the year 2000 problem to its list of "High Risk Government Programs;" promised to report periodically on the status of the agencies' responses; asked agencies to focus on their most critical computer systems; and now, has warned that we must be prepared for some amount of failure.

Are we ready for failure? In Medicare payments? In our air traffic control system? In our national defense system? We must act, and place responsibility in a body to ensure compliance. My bill, S. 22, would set up a commission to do just that. I can only hope that my colleagues and the leaders of the executive agencies take heed of GAO's warnings of probable failure.

I ask that an article from today's Washington Post entitled "Double Zero Will Arrive Before the Fix" be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 25, 1997]

DOUBLE ZERO WILL ARRIVE BEFORE THE FIX
GAO SAYS REPROGRAMMING SOME COMPUTERS
FOR 2000 IS RUNNING LATE

(By Rajiv Chandrasekaran)

The General Accounting Office warned for the first time yesterday that some of the government's computers will stop working in 2000 because agencies will not be able to finish reprogramming their equipment to understand years that do not begin with "19."

"There is a high probability there will be some failures," Joel Willemsen, the GAO's director of information resources management, told a House subcommittee. He urged government agencies to focus their efforts on the country's most critical computer systems, including those that handle air traffic control, Medicare and national defense.

Many large computer systems use a two-digit, year-dating system that assumes 1 and 9 are the first two digits of the year. If not reprogrammed, those computers will think the year 2000—or 00—actually is 1900, a glitch that could cripple many systems or lead them to generate erroneous data.

It's a particularly serious problem for the federal government, experts said, because most agencies have older computers that use the two-digit system. Earlier this month, the GAO, the watchdog arm of Congress, added the "Year 2000 problem" to its list of high-risk issues facing the nation.

The GAO does not have any estimates on how many computers—or which systems—might fail in 2000.

Although every Cabinet department has told the Office of Management and Budget that it is aware of the complicated and costly process of fixing its computers, some congressional leaders yesterday questioned whether the agencies were moving fast enough and have allotted enough money to make the changes in time. Some agencies still are studying—and have not yet begun actually reprogramming—their systems, according to a recent OMB report.

"Only a few of them have specific, realistic plans to solve the problem before the stroke of midnight on the last day of 1999," said Rep. Stephen Horn (R-Calif.), chairman of the House subcommittee on government management, information and technology, who oversaw yesterday's hearing before an overflow crowd. Six departmental chief information officers testified before the panel, each trying to describe just how complex the glitch will be to fix.

At the State Department, for example, chief information officer Eliza McClenaghan said there are 141 programs totaling 27.7 million lines of computer code written in 17 programming languages that need to be changed. Almost half of the code cannot be reprogrammed and will have to be replaced, she said.

Others highlighted the fact that many government officials only recently have become aware of the problem.

"I didn't even know there was such a thing as a year 2000 problem until August," said